



Expand mental health crisis response services

Issue:

Suicide

- Suicide is a serious public health problem that affects people of all ages. For Americans, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death; it resulted in 36,909 lives lost in 2009.
- For youth between the ages of 10 and 24, suicide is the third leading cause of death, resulting in approximately 4,600 lives lost each year.
- Mental health crises can result in the inappropriate involvement of law enforcement and overuse of emergency departments.
- Most suicides are associated with diagnosable and treatable mental illnesses and/or substance abuse. Along with suicide prevention efforts and improvements to the behavioral health system of care, additional state capacity is needed to respond to mental health crises when they arise.

Mental health crisis teams

- Mental health mobile crisis response services help people when they experience a crisis to better cope with thoughts of suicide, anxiety and feeling overwhelmed.
- Mental health mobile crisis teams respond to people wherever the person is and whenever the person needs the help.
- Currently, 59 Minnesota counties have mobile crisis response services for children and 49 counties have these services for adults. One tribe has these services for both children and adults.

Proposal:

- Provide startup funding for four new mobile crisis response teams to serve an additional 16 counties and two tribes.

Impact:

- Reduce rates of unnecessary hospitalization and involvement of law enforcement.

Fiscal impact:

- FY 2014: \$1 million
- FY 2015: \$1 million
- FY 2016: \$750,000
- FY 2017: \$750,000

Related information:

- Minnesota Management & Budget website: <http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/>
- DHS Adult Mental Health Web pages: www.dhs.state.mn.us/MHDivision

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